

Application No. 10/675,219
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 dated January 3, 2006
Reply to Notice of Allowance dated December 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-85 (canceled)

86. (previously presented) A method of ink jet printing onto a web having such pores or other openings therethrough such that, when ink is jetted from a printhead onto the web, some of the ink jets through the openings to a side of the web opposite the printhead, the method comprising:

- providing a surface on the opposite side of the web from the printhead;
- stretching the web through a printing station by applying tension to the web;
- moving the web longitudinally through the printing station;
- at the printing station, maintaining a space between the web and the surface such that the web is out of contact with the surface at the printing station so that when ink is jetted through the web and onto the surface it does not contaminate the web;
- jetting ink from the printhead onto the web while imparting relative movement between the web and the printing station, with some of the ink jetting through the web, across the space and onto said surface.

87. (currently amended) The method of claim 86 wherein:

- the jetted ink is UV curable ink; and
- the method further comprises exposing to UV energy, at least some of the ink jetted through the openings in the web and onto the surface, ~~to UV energy~~ to at least partially cure UV ink jetted onto the surface.

88. (currently amended) The method of claim 86 further comprising:

- covering the surface with a layer of protective material.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 86 further comprising:

- wiping from the surface ink jetted through the openings in the web.

90.(previously presented) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing onto a porous web having such pores or other openings therethrough such that, when ink is jetted from a printhead onto the web, some of the ink jets through the openings to a side of the web opposite the printhead, the apparatus comprising:

- a table having an upwardly facing surface over which a web is supported for printing;
- a printing station having an ink jet printhead thereat directed toward a web supported over the surface; and
- means for supporting a web over the surface so that the web is out of contact with the surface at the printing station with a space between the web and the surface, so that when ink is jetted from the printhead onto the web, liquid ink that passes through the web and onto the surface is kept from contact with the web.

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91. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein:
the means for supporting the web includes tension rollers for stretching the web through a printing station such that a space is maintained between the web and the surface at the printing station.

92. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein:
the printhead is configured to jet UV curable ink; and
the apparatus further comprises a UV curing lamp configured to expose ink jetted onto the web.

93. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein:
the printhead is configured to jet UV curable ink; and
the apparatus further comprises a UV curing lamp configured to expose to UV energy, at least some of the ink jetted through the web and onto the surface, ~~to UV energy~~ to at least partially cure UV ink jetted onto the surface.

94.(previously presented) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing onto a porous web having such pores or other openings therethrough through which some of the ink jetted from a printhead toward the web passes through the openings to a side of the web opposite the printhead, the apparatus comprising:

- a table over which a web is supported for printing;
- a printing station having an ink jet printhead configured to jet UV curable ink toward the table;
- a set of rollers configured to support a web in tension over the surface so that the web is out of contact with the surface at the printing station; and
- a UV curing lamp configured to expose ink jetted onto the web.

95. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 94 wherein:
the UV curing lamp is configured to expose to UV energy, ink jetted through the web and onto the surface, ~~to UV energy~~ to at least partially cure UV ink jetted onto the surface.

96. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 95 further comprising:
a non-stick protective coating on said surface.

97. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 94 further comprising:
a non-stick protective coating on said surface.